



## Early Days of Carbondale.



HE HISTORY of Carbondale is also that of the Anthracite industry. They had their birth simultaneously and grew up together. For three-quarters of a century they have been so intimately connected that Carbondale has been rightly dubbed "The Anthracite City". As it was in the beginning so it is now—a majority of its sturdy sons delve daily beneath the surface for the dusky diamonds that are the source of our wealth.

Carbondale is the oldest city in the hard coal region and has the proud distinction of being the fourth oldest city in the Keystone state. Its charter antedates that of Scranton by 15 years and Wilkes-Barre by 20 years. It has given to the country many men of prominence in church, financial, social, literary and political circles. The sons who have gone from their native heath have always had the fondest regard for the old town, and those settling in new districts have impressed the name of Carbondale upon their surroundings until now this city can boast of at least seven name-sakes in the United States. They are:

- Carbondale, Garfield County, Colorado,
- " Jackson County, Illinois,
- " Warren County, Indiana.
- " Polk County, Iowa,
- " Osage County, Kansas,
- " Menominee County, Michigan,
- " Athens County, Ohio.

### NAMING OF CARBONDALE.

Carbondale was named by the famous novelist and historian Washington Irving. Mr. Irving became interested in the enterprises projected by the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company and for some

years was one of its board of managers. It was in August 1829 just after the railroad to Honesdale was completed that some freight for the company came over the road marked "D. & H. C. Co., Carbondale." This was the first that anybody here knew what the name was to be. It was so appropriate that it met with universal approval, and when in after years it was learned that it was the suggestion of Washington Irving there was all the more reason for regarding it with satisfaction.

Hon. T. V. Powderly, Commissioner of Immigration, is authority for the statement that Carbondale was first called Barrendale, a name no doubt inspired by the bleak, barren vista disclosed to the eye of the first settler. He first heard this from his father and the statement was later confirmed by J. M. Poore with whom he discussed the matter.

### THE FIRST PROPRIETORS.

William Wurts, of Philadelphia, visited this section about 1823, and observing the outcroppings of coal secured a large tract of land at prices varying from \$2 to \$5 per acre. He and his brother Maurice becoming satisfied that there were rich deposits in the valley made preparations to begin mining. Prior to 1825 they mined small quantities and took it by team to the Lackawaxen where it was put upon rafts and floated down the Delaware to Philadelphia. Finding that they came in competition with Lehigh coal they turned their attention to the New York market. This led to the conception of the D. & H. canal which was surveyed in 1824 and completed in 1828.

In 1824 they erected a log house near the site of the present D. & H. city station. Here the miners were boarded and the house was known as the Old Log Tavern, of which we present a cut. It was the first house erected in Carbondale and was torn down in 1846.